

rights and obligations of Alabama Power Company under the agreement entered into between the company and the Department of the Interior (including the United States Fish and Wildlife Service) on May 12, 1983, in settlement of the action brought on September 24, 1980, against the Secretary and the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Alabama (Civil Action No. CV 80-C-1242-M), shall be extinguished. (Pub. L. 102-427, §3, Oct. 21, 1992, 106 Stat. 2179.)

## **§ 698s. Acquisition**

### **(a) Authorization**

#### **(1) In general**

Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the Secretary is authorized to acquire lands, waters, and interests in lands and waters within the boundaries of the Preserve by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange.

#### **(2) Consent of the owner**

The Secretary may not acquire lands, waters, or interests in lands and waters for the Preserve without the consent of the owner.

#### **(3) State lands**

Lands, waters, and interests in lands and waters within the boundaries of the Preserve that are owned by the State of Alabama, or any political subdivision of the State, may be acquired only by donation or exchange.

### **(b) Negotiations for acquisition**

#### **(1) Commencement of negotiations**

Immediately after publication of a description of the boundaries of the Preserve in accordance with section 698q(d) of this title, the Secretary shall commence negotiations for the acquisition of the lands, waters, and interests in lands and waters within the boundaries of the Preserve.

#### **(2) Report to Congress**

Not later than 1 year after October 21, 1992, the Secretary shall submit, in writing, a detailed schedule of actions and a progress report regarding the acquisition to—

- (A) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;
- (B) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and
- (C) the Committees on Appropriations of Congress.

#### **(3) Acquisition deadline**

The Secretary shall substantially complete the acquisition of the lands, waters, and interests in lands and waters within the Preserve, in accordance with the purposes of sections 698q to 698t of this title, not later than 2 years after October 21, 1992, subject to the availability of funds.

### **(c) Environmental audits**

#### **(1) Availability to owner**

Promptly following completion of any environmental audit performed by or on behalf of the Secretary with respect to any property proposed to be acquired for the purposes of

sections 698q to 698t of this title, the Secretary shall make available to the owner of the property a copy of the audit.

#### **(2) Inclusion in documents transferring title**

Any audit described in paragraph (1), and any environmental audit performed by the owner of the property and submitted to the Secretary prior to the date of the acquisition, shall be included as part of the documents transferring title to the property to the United States.

#### **(d) Future additions**

No lands or interest in lands may be added to the Preserve after October 21, 1992, without specific authorization by Congress and the consent of the owner of the lands or interest.

(Pub. L. 102-427, §4, Oct. 21, 1992, 106 Stat. 2181; Pub. L. 103-437, §6(d)(36), Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4585.)

#### **AMENDMENTS**

1994—Subsec. (b)(2)(B). Pub. L. 103-437 substituted “Natural Resources” for “Interior and Insular Affairs”.

### **§ 698t. Authorization of appropriations**

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out sections 698q to 698t of this title.

(Pub. L. 102-427, §5, Oct. 21, 1992, 106 Stat. 2182.)

### **§ 698u. Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve: findings and purposes**

#### **(a) Findings**

Congress finds that—

(1) of the 400,000 square miles of tallgrass prairie that once covered the North American Continent, less than 1 percent remains, primarily in the Flint Hills of Kansas;

(2) in 1991, the National Park Service conducted a special resource study of the Spring Hill Ranch, located in the Flint Hills of Kansas;

(3) the study concludes that the Spring Hill Ranch—

(A) is a nationally significant example of the once vast tallgrass ecosystem, and includes buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places pursuant to section 470a of this title that represent outstanding examples of Second Empire and other 19th Century architectural styles; and

(B) is suitable and feasible as a potential addition to the National Park System; and

(4) the National Park Trust, which owns the Spring Hill Ranch, has agreed to permit the National Park Service—

(A) to acquire a portion of the ranch, as specified in sections 698u to 698u-7 of this title; and

(B) to manage the ranch in order to—

(i) conserve the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife of the ranch; and

(ii) provide for the enjoyment of the ranch in such a manner and by such means as will leave the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

#### **(b) Purposes**

The purposes of sections 698u to 698u-7 of this title are—